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THE FULL PARTICULARS OF THE

Trial and Execution,

OF

JOHN and ELIZABETH SMITH,

At Ipswich, in the County of Suffolk.

For the Murder of Mary Ann Smith, aged Eight years, daughter of John Smith, by a former Wife, by cruelly starving, beating, and otherwise inhumanly treating her, so that a Mortification took place in her feet which deprived her of life.

To which is added the Trial and Execution of

EDMUND THROWER,

FOR THE MURDER OF

THOMAS CARTER & ELIZABETH CARTER

At Cratfield, in Suffolk,

NINETEEN YEARS AGO,

And the extraordinary manner in which he was detected.

LONDON;

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(PRICE ONE PENNY.)

Trial, Execution, &c.

AT the Suffolk Assizes, on Saturday last, JOHN SMITH, aged 39, and ELIZABETH his wife, aged 27, were indicted for the wilful murder of Mary Ann Smith, daughterof the male prisoner, at Cookley, in the county of Suffolk, by starvation, beating, and exposing her three successive nights in a shed, in the month of December last, by which her feet become mortified, &c.

It appeared in evidence that the male prisoner, had three children by a former wife, who died about three years ago, and he married the female prisoner on the 8th of last November, and fromthe 10th of December, until the 11th of February, 1812 when the eldest of the three children, the subject of this indictment died. The tortures administered to them were too horrible even for description,

Previous to his marriage with the female prisoner, the three children were admired by every one for their cleanliness and ruby cheeks, and the male prisoner was marked for his parental kindness and affection towards his offspring. Their health, it would be proved, became gradually on the decline after the marriage of the prisoners, and they were at length reduced to skeletons; and the

child which died would be represented in evidence as the most deplorable object ever witnessed. The case, however, will be best detailed by an abstract of the evidence.

Lucy Smith sister of the male prisoner, proved that on the 4th of February, the male prisoner called on her in tears, and said his eldest child was dying. Witness found two of the once healthy children sitting by the fire in a state so completely emaciated, that they appeared indifferent to any objects. On going up stairs a shocking object presented itself in the person of the eldest child, in bed, who was unable to stir from her emaciated state, and she was the picture of death. The poor child called out "Aunt, aunt, don't leave me," Witness challenged them with starving the children, and they agreed that they had not much drink. It also appeared afterwards that the child's feet were in a state of mortification, from having been exposed three nights in an out-house, by the unnatural father. she was also much bruised about the neck and body by beatings, and her father confessed having hung her up to a beam by the middle, without cause. The other two children were in a shocking emaciated state. and the witness took them under her roof.

Mrs. Clark proved completely that the children were all in a state of starvation. She often carried them cake and a little wine, which they all ravenously devoured.

Three surgeons gave it as their opinion, that the child died from the effects of barbarous treatment and want of food.

No disclosure of the mortified feet was made until it was found the child could not be saved; and one witness stated that the female prisoner had said they could live better without the children—To enter into a minute description of the barbarities towards the children would fill a volume. They were of the age of four seven, and nine years The male prisoner was universally allowed to have been a kind tender father and husband, until his second marriage, and to such extent that he was particularly noted by many country gentlemen, some of whom spoke on this occasion.

The prisoners were found GUILTY, and ordered for execution at Ipswich on Monday next, whither they were immediately conveyed.

The Judge said, you have had a fair and impartial trial and have been convicted of a most barbarous murder, at which human nature revolts—that of your child, by a series of unparalled cru-

elties and tortures. An offence more wicked than your's cannot be—You John Smith, the unnatural father to the child whom you were bound to cherish and cover, for not only inflicted tortures but suffered the said child to be persecuted by your wife.—You, the Woman Prisoner, are equally guilty, for instead of being an affectionate mother to the child, you withheld from her the common necessaries for the support of life.

Smith and his Wife had not spoke together for some time, and during the trial they never even a glance at each other. The man seemed much affected during the trial, and particularly so whilst the Judge was passing sentence, when he wept bitterly. The woman prisoner on the contrary, seemed indifferent to either the trial or the sentence, and never moved a muscle.

EDMUND alias EDWARD THROWER, was convicted for the murder of Eliz. Carter, at Crafield Suffolk, on the 16th of October, 1793. This prisoner was brought to justice by a chapter of accidents. He confessed the murder to one Heads soon after it was committed; but Heads according to his statement, knew he was so much given to speaking falsehoods that he disbelieved him. The murder is just similar to that of the

Marr, and Williamson families. The prisoner went alone and knocked out the brains of Eliz. Carter, as she was fastening her window shutters, and then he went into the house and killed her father in a similar manner, whilst the old man was sitting in his arm chair. Some years after this, Heads, who had never before heard from any one, but the prisoner that a murder of that sort had been committed, heard a brother felon in Norwich gaol lamenting that he had always been suspected of that murder innocently, and Heads recollected the confession the prisoner had made to him several years ago, of which he made depositions before two Magistrates eleven years since, but Thrower, the prisoner, was never heard of, and supposed to be dead. There is a common observation, that "Murder will out," and the manner by which the prisoner was brought to justice is extremely singular. At the time of the national alarm at the horrid murders of the Marr and Williamson families, Mr. Archdeacon Oldershaw, a magistrate, was observing to Mr. Fox, in common conversation, that a murder resembling those occured at Cratfield, nineteen years ago, and in mentioning his taking the depositions of Heads, he observed Thrower was suspected, but he never was found. Now Mr. Fox, had a legacy, to pay Thrower's wife, which could not be done without her husband's signature, and through this incident the the prisoner was taken into custody, as well as Heads, both of whom had been transported.

Heads, in his evidence, told the same story he had done eleven years ago, of the prisoner's confession, and a person proved having heard a female shriek on the night of the murder, and saw a man

run from the house. The body of the young woman was proved to have been found in the garden which corrobated Head's story. There being other strong circumstantial evidence, the prisoner was found Guilty, and ordered for execution on Monday at Ipswich, and afterwards his body to be dissected.

At the place of execution Thrower persisted in his innocence to the last. Elizabeth Smith, conducted herself with much sullenness; she was a good looking woman. The man, her husband, appeared much affected; we understand, they both, previous to being turned off, confessed their guilt.

After hanging the usual time, the bodies were cut down, and delivered to the surgeons for dissection.

Unhappily for the rising generation, there is a considerable number of persons now at the head of families, and in other situations, whose hearts and dispositions are similar to those of the barbarous man and woman before mentioned.

May such take warning by this account, and abandon their cruel and dangerous propensities, before it be too late; for though their minds are steeled against the common feelings of humanity with regard to others, the idea of self-preservation might now be expected to restrain them in the unmerciful exercise of their authority.

Cruel Parents, Guardians, Masters, Mistresses, and others, may be assured that should any of their miserable victims die in consequence of unreasonable severity, their own EXECUTION and DISSECTION would certainly follow.

And this in truth is no more than the neccessary and deserved punishment for such heinious barbarity.

A Copy of Verses.

YE tender people, Attend awhile to me,
While I re ate a story. Of monstrous cruelty,
Tis of two harden'd wretches, At Suffolk 'sizes tried
Who for a barb'rous murder, At Ipswich lately died.

John Smith th' unhappy father, Of mo h'rless children three,
Took a most cruel woman. Their mother-in-law to be,
And was so over ruled, By this most cruel wretch.
As to conspire together, To starve them all to death,

And not content with starving, They cruelly did treat,
These poor unhappy orphans, And often did them beat,
O think ye tender hearted, How shocking was the sight
Of these poor starved children, Reduced to a fright.

Then to a beam they hanged, The girl, but 9 years old,
Where she three days remained, Expos'd to frost & cold
Her tender limbs were frozen Her feet were mortified,
And of this cruel treatment, The tender infant died.

Now this unfeeling father, And this inhuman bride,
For murder were convicted, And for the same they died
Their bodies were dissected. A warning full to be,
To all who are disposed, To acts of cruelty,

FINIS.

J. Pitts, Printer.